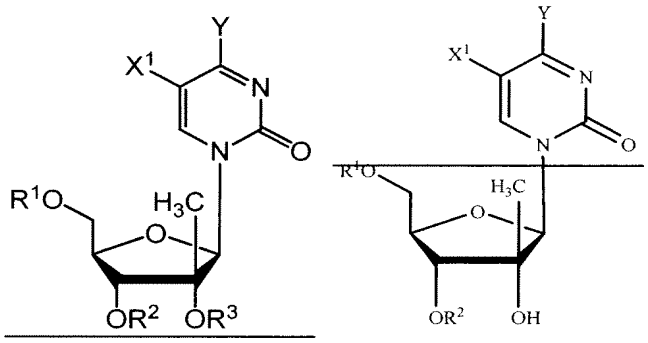
## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. - 10. (Canceled).

11. (Currently Amended) A method for the treatment of a hepatitis C virus infection in a host, comprising administering to a host infected with a hepatitis C virus an effective treatment amount of a compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein the compound has Formula (V)~~the formula~~:



(V)

wherein:

$R^1$ is H or~~, mono, di or triphosphate~~ or ~~a stabilized~~ phosphate~~; acyl, an amino acid residue; a carbohydrate; or a peptide~~;

$R^2$ and $R^3$ are independently H, phosphate, acyl or ~~is~~ an amino acid residue, wherein at least one of $R^2$ and $R^3$ is acyl or an amino acid residue;

~~Y is hydrogen, bromo, chloro, fluoro, iodo, $OR^4$, $NR^4R^5$ or $SR^4$;~~

$X^1$ is H or $CH_3$ ~~selected from the group consisting of H, straight chained, branched or cyclic alkyl, CO-alkyl, CO-aryl, CO-alkoxyalkyl, chloro, bromo, fluoro, iodo, $OR^4$, $NR^4NR^5$ or $SR^5$~~; and

Y is hydrogen, bromo, chloro, fluoro, iodo, $NH_2$ or OH

~~$R^4$ and $R^5$ are independently hydrogen, acyl, or alkyl~~.

12. - 16. (Canceled).

17. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is in the form of a dosage unit.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the dosage unit contains 50 to 1000 mg or 1 to 50 mg of the compound.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the dosage unit is a tablet or capsule.

20. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the host is a human.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is at least 85% by weight of the β-D-isomer.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the compound, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is at least 90% by weight of the β-D-isomer.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the compound, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is at least 95% by weight of the β-D-isomer.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the compound is in the form of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt selected from the group consisting of a tosylate, methanesulfonate, acetate, citrate, malonate, tartarate, succinate, benzoate, ascorbate, α-ketoglutarate, α-glycerophosphate, formate, fumarate, propionate, glycolate, lactate, pyruvate, oxalate, maleate, salicylate, sulfate, nitrate, hydrobromate, hydrochloride, di-hydrochloride, and phosphoric acid salt.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable salt is a hydrochloride salt.

26. - 42. (Canceled).

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable salt is a di-hydrochloride salt.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein Y is hydrogen.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein Y is bromo, chloro, fluoro or iodo.

46. (Canceled).

47. (Canceled).

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein $X^1$ is H.

49. – 52. (Canceled).

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein $R^1$ is H.

54. - 61. (Canceled).

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein $R^2$ is a residue of an amino acid selected from the group consisting of glycine, alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, methionine, phenylalanine, tryptophan, proline, serine, threonine, cysteine, tyrosine, asparagine, glutamine, aspartate, glutamate, lysine, arginine and histidine.

63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein $R^2$ is a residue of a naturally occurring or synthetic $\alpha$, $\beta$, $\gamma$, or $\delta$ amino acid.

64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein $R^2$ is a residue of an amino acid in an L configuration.

65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein $R^2$ is a residue of valine.

66. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein $R^1$ is mono, di or triphosphate.

67. – 71. (Canceled).